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Senate acting swiftly to fund Michigan National Guard hurricane disaster relief

LANSING – The Michigan Senate has taken prompt action to support the Michigan National Guard’s efforts to assist those affected by Hurricane Katrina by agreeing to authorize money for the operations, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau.

The Senate plans to authorize \$1 million to deploy members of the Michigan National Guard to parts of Louisiana and Mississippi devastated by the powerful hurricane that struck earlier in the week. Sections of New Orleans remain underwater because of breached levees.

“Michigan is standing ready to help our neighbors in Mississippi and Louisiana get back on their feet as soon as possible,” McManus said. “Our prayers go out to those affected by the disaster and to our soldiers as they travel to the affected areas.”

Current estimates are that around 100 people were killed by the hurricane, and damage costs have been put as high as \$25 billion, according to news reports.

The Guard will deploy as soon as possible using existing funds. The money appropriated by the Legislature will replace that money.

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